

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 4, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:30 PM. Mayor Nolan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent meditation. Mayor Nolan stated that the meeting has been properly advertised in the December 31, 2004, issue of the Somerset Spectator and is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Mr. Richard Batchelder-present, Ms. Connie Hallman-present, Ms. Peggy Harris-present, Mr. George Morren-present, Mr. Jared Witt-present, Mr. Edward Zimmerman-present.

Also present: Borough Clerk Raymond Whitlock, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Borough Auditor Bob Morrison, Borough Engineer William Tanner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 2005, was made by Hallman with a second by Morren. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was opened for public comments.

Mark Germaine of 15 Washington St. noted an error in the publication of the Gazette as to the appointment of the Board of Health President.

Hearing no other comments/questions, the floor was closed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Report for March 2005 (dated April 1, 2005) was distributed to Mayor and Council. Engineer Tanner provided an overview of the report. A meeting was held regarding Princeton Gamma Tech and minutes provided to Mayor and Council. Engineer Tanner indicated it was a positive meeting and the situation should be resolved. He also advised that Superintendent Larry Merk is in the process of researching his records as to drought related water levels for our well and report back with his findings. After the information is received, they will meet again with EPA and resolve the issue of the water shut-off. The start date for the County Park project has been delayed due to weather; Van Horne Park Committee has set date for groundbreaking for 4/9/05 at 11:00 am. , all invited to attend. In regard to the garbage contract bids, three bids were received and a summary of the breakdown of the bidders' proposals were provided. In regard to concerns by Council, Engineer Tanner will review the bid presented by Republic Services of NJ, d/b/a Raritan Valley Disposal (which appears to have offered the lowest bid) to confirm that they adhere to the provisions of the bid specifications, specifically as to no limit on the amount of trash they will pick up (with or without extra carts), and that residents will not be required to buy extra carts. No further action on the bid submissions at this time.

Engineer Tanner provided local aid applications for signature and filing. Based on his recommendations, it was agreed by way of formal motion made by Morren with a second by Hallman to rank the applications before submission according to priority as follows: Montgomery Ave., Hickory Ct., Washington St. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Applications signed by Mayor and Clerk.

In regard to the upcoming renewal of the lawn maintenance contract, it was agreed to maintain the quote process. The brush contract renewal will be handled later this year at the end of the summer. Engineer Tanner suggested that the leaf contract renewal be handled through a formal bid process to ensure an accurate cost and to specify equipment standards. It was discussed whether the brush pick up could be handled through general clean up or if a special brush pick up was needed. Engineer Tanner will find out what the costs would be and report back.

Stormwater Management Ordinance – It was agreed that Engineer Tanner will use the model ordinance to fit the Borough's needs. Engineer Tanner will review the other voluntary ordinances (pet waste, litter control, and improper disposal) with Clerk Whitlock as to whether they are needed. It was agreed that Engineer Tanner contact the County as to whether they are willing to provide a service for labeling the storm sewers in the Borough (approx. 45).

Public Comments: Cliff Moore requested clarification as to the low bid figure for the garbage pick up; Mark Germaine requested clarification as to the whether garbage will be picked up without a cart and how much is allowed to be placed out. Engineer Tanner will be clarifying these questions with the vendor.

Ms. Harris reported that she has received calls from residents that live across from the pond on Crescent Ave. regarding erosion being caused by the overflow. Engineer Tanner has visited the site with the County and a pump has been found at the base of the pond that appears to be inoperable. It was recommended that Engineer Tanner contact George White (who formerly maintained the area for the Schafer's) who may be able to provide some information about the status of this pump.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration & Records – Mr. Witt advised he is in the process of reviewing the Code book and the by-laws and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Zimmerman reported that the emergency phone in the elevator is in working order.

Finance & Insurance – Mr. Batchelder advised the General Ledger software is being installed; the budget is posted on the website.

Public Safety & Emergency Services – Mr. Morren provided a summary of the parking tickets and Court report for February.

Streets & Roads – No report at this time.

Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection – No report at this time.

Council Representative to Planning Board – Ms. Harris reported that the resolution of approval for the Huizing property was memorialized; AT&T resolution under review by attorneys.

Council Representative to School Board – Mr. Witt advised the school budget for 2005/2006 has been unanimously adopted. School Board elections will be held on April 19, 2005.

Council Representative to Board of Health – Ms. Hallman advised the Board of Health is currently evaluating the Federal Practice Standards. In regard to the inspections of the grease traps at the SantaFe Grille, Mr. Pattenburg of the Health Department advised that there are not monthly inspections conducted. Mr. Pattenburg will contact Montgomery Twp. to follow-up on this incident. Rabies clinic scheduled for 4/21/05.

Zoning Official – Report for the month of March from Mr. Raffaelli was read into the record.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL BUDGET

ORDINANCE #2 – 2005 – PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING

Ordinance #2-2005 as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and entitled, "ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK" was read by title. Mayor Nolan opened the floor to the public for comments. Hearing none, the floor was closed. Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Batchelder with a second by Harris. Roll call: Batchelder-aye, Hallman-aye, Harris-aye, Morren-aye, Witt-aye, Zimmerman-aye.

Resolution to Amend Budget

RMA Bob Morrison presented the resolution to amend the budget. Same has been amended to include certification of funds for the Clean Communities Program. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Morren with a second by Batchelder. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Appendix 1)

FINAL ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL BUDGET – Mayor Nolan opened the floor to the public for comments. Hearing none, the floor was closed. Motion to adopt the 2005 budget was made by Batchelder with a second by Morren. Roll call: Batchelder-aye, Hallman-aye, Harris-aye, Morren-aye, Witt-aye, Zimmerman-aye.

CONTRACT FOR NEW AMBULANCE - It was suggested by Mr. Witt that the signing of the contract be tabled until representatives from the squad attend the next Council meeting per the previous request of the Council. After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of Mayor and Council to proceed with the signing of the contract for the purpose of finalizing the purchase process. Motion to approve was made by Morren with a second by Harris. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

BILL LIST

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that sufficient funds are available to pay said vouchers, BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the following vouchers be approved for payment. Clerk Whitlock clarified that the insurance payment for the emergency services encompasses the full year. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Batchelder with a second by Morren. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 2 for Bill List)

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications as listed on the agenda were discussed and ordered filed. Letter dated March 26, 2005, from Jeanette Muser addressed to Mayor Nolan and Council was addressed. Ms. Muser serves on the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee. She is requesting financial support from the Borough for "Rocky Hill Remembers" articles to be published in the Gazette at a cost of \$30/quarter. Motion was made by Hallman to contribute \$120.00 with a second by Morren with the conditions that the articles be forwarded to Mr. Batchelder for inclusion on the Borough's website and payment will be made for only those articles actually published by the Gazette. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Mayor Nolan advised there is a property tax summit being held on May 6, 2005, that he will be attending. Anyone else interested in attending should let him know.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Interlocal Agreement Between Somerset County Municipalities and County Public Works – It was the consensus of Council to authorize Mayor Nolan and Clerk Whitlock to sign this agreement.

Council Room Filing Cabinets – Mr. Zimmerman advised Council that filing cabinets for each member are available in the Council Room.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Nolan apprised the Council of a Student Leaders' Youth Program offered through Somerset County. The information will be provided to the School Board by Mr. Witt for anyone interested in participating.

It was noted that nominating petitions for Council positions must be submitted to the Borough Clerk by April 11, 2005 at 4:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hearing no comments/questions, the floor was closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM was made by Batchelder with a second by Morren. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths
Deputy Clerk